



NSI Directed to Continue SPAN's Functions

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During a series of network management retreats in June and July of 1990, representatives from NASA Headquarters Codes O and S agreed on networking roles and responsibilities for their respective organizations. The representatives decided that NSI will assume management of both the Space Physics Analysis Network (SPAN) and the NASA Science Network (NSN). SPAN is now known as the NSI/DECnet, and NSN is now known as the NSI/IP. Some management functions will be distributed between ARC and GSFC. NSI at ARC has the lead role for requirements generation and network engineering. Pat Gary at GSFC will develop Advanced Applications and the Network Information Center. He will also lead NSI User Services, but NSI at Ames will continue to provide User Services during the transition. The transition will be made as transparent as possible for the users.

DECnet service will continue, but is now directly managed by NSI at Ames. NSI will continue to work closely with routing center managers at other NASA centers, and has formed a transition team to address the change in management. An NSI-DECnet working group has also been formed as a separate engineering group within NSI to plan the transition to Phase V, DECnet's approach to Open System Integration (OSI). Transition is not expected for a year or more due to delays in product releases. For further information and details, contact Warren VanCamp, 415-604-4796

Plans to upgrade speeds in tail circuits and the backbone are underway. The proposed baseline service for new connections is up to 56 Kbps; 9.6 Kbps lines will gradually be upgraded as requirements dictate. NSI is in the process of consolidating protocol traffic, tail circuits, and the backbone. Currently NSI's backbone is fractional T1; NSI will go to full T1 service as soon as it is feasible.

NSI2-91d